

Shenandoah Trail Rides Guide

Horse Trip: 10-15 Mile Circuit

National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
Shenandoah National Park
Emergency: 1-800-732-0911



Thornton River and Piney Branch via Keyser Run

Map: PATC # 9 (North District)

Not a suitable route for wet/winter conditions.

Trip Description: Starting on gravel and moving to the woods, you will never be far from mountain streams.

Skyline Drive Parking

Parking: Keyser Run Parking

Trailer: Small 2-horse trailer

Availability: Trailer parking may be limited.

Boundary Parking

Parking: Keyser Run/Little Devils Boundary Parking

Trailer: Stock trailer

Availability: Trailer parking may be limited.

Encounters: Route uses county roads outside of the park. (No busy highways are included.) Weekends bring heavy hiking and/or backpacking along this route.

Footings: Long stretches are rough, rocky, narrow, and/or in wilderness. Potential for troublesome stream crossings.

Option 1 - Total Distance 14.2 Miles

This ride leaves from Skyline Drive (Keyser Run parking near MP 19).

Ride downhill on Keyser Run Road 3.3 miles.

Turn right onto Hull School Trail and ride for 2.2 miles. (Pay attention to the concrete trail markers in order to stay on Hull School Trail; you will make several turns.)

Turn left onto Thornton River Trail and ride 1.3 miles, then leave the park.

Continue straight on the road (state route 612) for another 0.7 mile.

Turn left onto 653 and ride 0.5 mile.

Turn left onto 600 and ride 0.1 mile to the cement post marking Piney Branch Trail.

Turn left onto Piney Branch Trail and ride 2.1 miles back to Hull School Trail.

Turn right onto Hull School Trail, riding 0.7 mile.

Turn left onto Keyser Run Road to return to the parking area (3.3 miles).

Option 2 - Total Distance 10.0 Miles

Leave from the park boundary and ride uphill on Keyser Run Road 1.2 miles.

Turn left onto Hull School Trail and ride for 2.2 miles. (Pay attention to the concrete trail markers in order to stay on Hull School Trail; you will make several turns.)

Continue straight on the road (state route 612) for another 0.7 mile.

Turn left onto 653 and ride 0.5 mile.

Turn left onto 600 and ride 0.1 mile to the cement post marking Piney Branch Trail.

Turn left onto Piney Branch Trail and ride 2.1 miles back to Hull School Trail.

Turn right onto Hull School Trail, riding 0.7 mile.

Turn right onto Keyser Run Road to return to the parking area (1.2 miles).